

The Iowa Public Information Board

<p>In re the Matter of:</p> <p>John Rasmussen, Complainant</p> <p>And Concerning:</p> <p>Pottawattamie County, IA, Respondent</p>	<p>Case Number: 25FC:0065</p> <p>Final Report</p>
---	---

COMES NOW, Charlotte Miller, Executive Director for the Iowa Public Information Board (“IPIB”), on June 3, 2025, John Rasmussen filed formal complaint 25FC:0065, alleging that Pottawattamie County Board of Supervisors violated Iowa Code Chapter 21.

IPIB accepted this Complaint on June 27, 2025. This Informal Resolution is adopted in response to the IPIB acceptance of the complaint.

Facts

Pottawattamie County is located in Southwest Iowa. John Rasmussen (“Complainant”) is a resident of the County. Complainant contends that the Pottawattamie County Board of Supervisors (“Respondent”) failed to comply with the requirements set forth in Iowa Code Chapter 21. Specifically, the allegation concerns the Board failure to provide adequate information of items for discussion during the meeting, thereby impeding adequate public notice and meaningful engagement.

The underlying dispute pertains to whether the Board provided proper notice that the county would be vote on employment contracts of all department heads on May 27, 2025, which includes the Board’s contract with the Complainant. The agenda item read as follows:

“A. Matt Wilber and Kristen Bracker/Attorney – Discussion and/or decision to approve and authorize Chairperson to sign Employment Agreements with Chief Information Officer David Bayer, Human Resources Director Jana Lemrick, Buildings and Grounds Director Jason Slack, Chief Financial Officer Mitch Kay, Planning and Development Director Matt Wyant, Administrator Veterans Services Office Peggy Becker, GIS Coordinator Jamie Petersen, Director Chief Medical Examiner Investigator Cody Pane, and Engineer John Rasmussen.”

The Complaint’s employment contract was brought forth during the discussion of the action item above. A motion for termination of the Complaint’s employment contract was made by a supervisor of Respondent, seconded by another supervisor, and subsequently passed by a 3-2 vote.

Complainant filed a grievance with Respondent in June 2025.

No violation was alleged with respect to the required twenty-four-hour notice or the posting location for either the May 21 or June 4 meeting agendas.

Complainant's IPIB formal complaint 25FC:0065 was accepted June 27, 2025.

After opening the cases to both parties, Respondent expressed its willingness to change the way it drafts meeting agendas to better satisfy the notice requirements of Chapter 21.

Applicable Law

“Except as provided in [Iowa Code § 21.4(3)], a governmental body shall give notice of the time, date, and place of each meeting including a reconvened meeting of the governmental body, and the tentative agenda of the meeting, in a manner reasonably calculated to apprise the public of that information.” Iowa Code § 21.4(1)(a).

Procedure

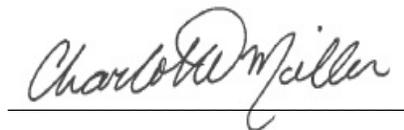
IPIB accepted this formal complaint, 25FC:0065, on accepted June 27, 2025. Upon acceptance, the parties worked toward an informal resolution.

Respondent approved the informal resolution terms on January 27, 2026.

Complainant approved the Informal Resolution on February 24, 2026.

All terms of the Informal Resolution have been met. The IPIB staff recommend this Final Report be adopted and the complaint be dismissed as resolved.

By the IPIB Executive Director,



Charlotte J.M. Miller, J.D.

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

This document was sent on March 13, 2026, to:

John Rasmussen, Complainant

Pottawattamie County, IA, Respondent